

# LittletonReport

February/March 2021

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#### What's Inside

All meetings, programs and events listed in this issue are subject to change or cancellation depending on health and safety considerations.



# Five-Star Arapahoe County COVID-19 Recovery Program



The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) approved Arapahoe County's application for a public health order variance that enabled the county to launch its Five-Star Recovery Partner Program. Businesses can apply now.

The Five-Star Recovery Partner Program is voluntary and open to all eligible businesses within Arapahoe County. The program will initially prioritize restaurants, gyms, and indoor event applications. There is no cost for the application.

Businesses must complete the online application stating that the business is willing and able to meet all the criteria on the Business Certification Checklist. Businesses with multiple locations must certify each location separately. Visit Arapahoe County's website at arapahoegov.com/fivestar to access the application, find the program requirements, or for more information. For questions email Arapahoe County at 5star@arapahoegov.com.

# Council Approves Contracting for Senior/Disabled Transportation Services

At its December 15 meeting, the Littleton City Council voted unanimously to take an outsourcing partnership approach to provide senior and disabled transportation services in 2021. The city's Omnibus and Shopping Cart buses were shuttered most of 2020 due to the pandemic's social distancing requirements and safer at home recommendations, especially where vulnerable populations are concerned. Several of the bus drivers took advantage of an early retirement program and the staff then took the opportunity to take a closer look at the programs. Staff determined that contracting for the services was the most cost-effective solution when it is safe to resume service. The city will experience cost savings by only paying for hours used, increased flexibility in response to demand, and additional technology to optimize routes and analyze rider usage. The budget for 2021 is \$200,000.

Via Mobility is expected to begin service on February 1. New riders must be 60 years old or disabled and need to register by calling 303-444-3043. The Omnibus will run Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and appointments must be made seven days in advance. Appointments can be scheduled online at viacolorado.org or by calling 303-447-9636.







# **Unified Land Use Code Continues in 2021**

Envision Littleton and the Unified Land Use Code (ULUC) continue in 2021 with more virtual studios to discuss neighborhoods, business areas, and



commercial areas. The transition to a Unified Land Use Code is Littleton City Council's top priority.

The next Envision Studio will be held February 10 to begin the discussion about neighborhoods in the city. The ULUC will further develop the character areas identified in the Future Land Use and Character Map that was adopted with the Comprehensive Plan in 2019.

A draft of the new ULUC debuts on June 7, 2021 and will regulate how land can be used in the City of Littleton. This new regulatory framework will deliver on the Envision Littleton goals of quality neighborhoods, fiscal sustainability, transportation choices, and diversity of housing options.

Project information, updates, and the calendar of events are available at EnvisionLittleton.org.



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# Littleton Concludes Distribution of CARES Act Funds

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was passed by Congress and signed into law on March 27, 2020. This \$2 trillion economic relief package provided financial assistance to workers and families, small



businesses, funds for job preservation; and assistance to state, local and tribal governments navigating the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak.

The City of Littleton received \$4.4 million and developed several programs to distribute the funds throughout the community in four phases.

**Phase I** – Screening guards for public facing operations (museum, library, permit center, etc.), personal protective equipment for employees, thermometers, decontamination devices and supplies; upgrade to the phone system and computer technology to allow employees to work from home, Littleton Business Recovery Grants; and Weekends on Main Street equipment, staffing and marketing.

**Phase II** – City council chamber design and construction and audio-visual upgrades including flexible seating for social distancing and a new HVAC system that exchanges air with the outside, cyber security/advanced email filtering, courthouse improvements, and Non-Profit Assistance Grants.

**Phase III** – City council chamber design and construction, door security and WIFI improvements at city buildings, customer service request software, home office equipment for remote workers, and unemployment costs.

**Phase IV** – Strategic website assessment and design plan, council chamber voting system, equipment for Downtown Littleton events, technology research subscription, cloud storage and scanning, additional Littleton Business Recovery Grants and Non-Profit Assistance Grants, security cameras for Bemis Library and the Littleton Museum, and public safety personnel expenses.

CARES Act funds were provided to counties who in turn distributed portions to cities within their jurisdictions. "The city council and staff worked closely with our partners at Arapahoe County and were responsive to community needs in distributing these funds to help our businesses and non-profits who were provided more than \$1,000,000," said City Manager Mark Relph. "I believe the improvements made to our facilities positions them to be safer spaces for visiting, gathering and conducting public meetings when we are able to do so again in person."

Arapahoe County provided almost \$494,000 to 54 Littleton businesses, while the City of Littleton distributed almost \$837,000 to 111 businesses, and \$181,000 to 20 non-profit groups.

There are many resources still available to help residents and businesses. For more information, check out these websites:

- Unemployment Insurance, Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, www.cdle.colorado.gov.
- Housing and Utilities Assistance, Department of Local Affairs, www.affordablehousingonline.com.
- Rent Relief/Tenant Support, 211 Colorado, www.211colorado.org.
- Food Pantry Assistance Program, www.cofoodfinder.org.
- Small Business Assistance, Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade, www.covid19.colorado.gov.

#### COUNCIL CHAMBER (BEFORE)

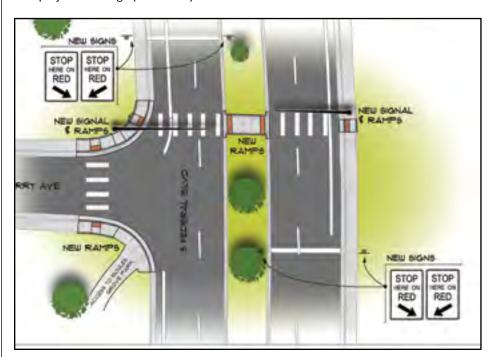


#### COUNCIL CHAMBER (2021)



# Federal and Berry Pedestrian Crossing

In the first quarter of 2021, the City of Littleton will make significant safety improvements to the pedestrian crossing at the Federal Boulevard and Berry Avenue intersection. The improvements will include installation of new pedestrian signals, ADA compliant ramps, and new signage. These features will help prevent conflicts between vehicles and students walking or biking to Centennial Academy of Fine Arts and Goddard Middle School, as well as citizens accessing the Mary Carter Greenway and Downtown Littleton. This project was largely funded by a Safe Routes to School Grant.



# **Construction Complete at Mineral and Platte Canyon**

The City of Littleton and Chavez Construction completed the Mineral Drive and Platte Canyon Road intersection improvements and 2020 Mill and Overlay project. This intersection has a history of accidents. Improvements included reconstructing the channelizing islands for improved pedestrian and vehicular safety. The reconstructed intersection also allows turning movements from southbound Platte Canyon Road onto Mineral Drive and from westbound Mineral Drive onto southbound Platte Canyon Road. Mineral Drive, Utica Drive, and Elati Street from Ridge Road to Euclid Avenue, were milled and overlaid as part of the project. City staff and contractors thank citizens and business owners for their patience during the project.



A resident living nearby observed, "This has been needed for a long time. I had been making the left turn illegally in the past because I didn't have another option, and now I feel like I can turn onto Platte Canyon a lot safer."

### Like the news in the Littleton Report?

Get more news, more often by subscribing to the *Littleton Report Online* at **littletongov.org/news**.



# When Should You Get Tested for COVID-19?



The State of Colorado offers guidance on when to get tested and how long to quarantine.

Anyone who has symptoms should get tested immediately and isolate for at least 10 days from onset and until they are fever-free for 24 hours (without the help of medication), and their symptoms are improving. In more severe cases, medical providers may recommend isolation for a longer period. Anyone who has been exposed to someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 should quarantine for 14 days and get

tested seven days after the exposure. A negative test should not release someone from quarantine because symptoms might not appear for up to 14 days after exposure.

The Tri-County Health Department offers detailed testing information for the Tri-County area for symptomatic individuals or those who believe they have been exposed. Visit tchd.org/827/Free-Testing-Sites.

# **\$1.7 Million for Transportation**Improvements

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) in partnership with the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG), awarded 30 transportation projects worth \$58.9 million in the Denver and Boulder regions.

The City of Littleton was awarded \$1.1 million for a series of projects focusing on bike and pedestrian safety east of the Mineral Light Rail Station called the Littleton Mineral Station East Mobility-shed Improvements. The city was also awarded \$615,000 for reconstruction of signal equipment at the intersection of Prince Street and Church Avenue from the Safer Main Streets Program.

CDOT and DRCOG asked local government agencies to submit their best and most innovative solutions that would reduce fatal and serious injury crashes, support all modes of travel and improve access and mobility for residents of all ages, incomes and abilities.

"With the help of CDOT and the Safer Main Streets Program, the City of Littleton will be able to improve its most dangerous intersection for cyclists and increase safety at several key pedestrian links to Littleton's two light rail stations," said Littleton Public Works Director Keith Reester. "Given the challenging circumstances of 2020, and the impacts on municipal transportation funding, the Safer Main Streets Program is helping Littleton make critical safety upgrades that otherwise may have been delayed for several years," he added.

For a complete list of projects and more information, visit codot.gov/programs/safermainstreets.



## **Littleton City Manager Awards**

The City Manager Awards were held virtually this year but the themes of recognition, dedication, and appreciation were the same.

"This is always such a tough decision," said City Manager Mark Relph. "The staff continue to amaze me, especially as this year presented numerous unforeseen challenges. They demonstrated ingenuity, resourcefulness, focus, organization, stamina, originality, cooperation, creativity, humility, and patience."



Employee of the Year was awarded to Scott Rogers. Rogers has

been with the city for 20 years and is the Infrastructure and Platform Services Manager in Information Technologies. Among other things, Rogers played an integral part in shifting the city's technological capabilities, enabling the majority of staff to transition to working from home.

Leader of the Year was awarded to Richard Allen, the Library Systems Supervisor. Allen and his team were creative and innovative, working to continue to provide services as health regulations were constantly changing. Allen is sincere and effective in striving to serve his staff, the library, library patrons and the community as a whole. He is focused on solutions and is a true example of servant leadership.

The Human Resources Department was honored as **Team of the Year**. Throughout 2020, the team placed employees' well-being first. The staff did an amazing job with quickly implementing the new COVID-19 regulations and laws that were enacted by the various government agencies, keeping all informed while overcoming the challenges of budget reductions, employee needs and constantly changing guidelines.

Justin Yeo was recognized with the **Safety Award**. Yeo began his position as a Facilities Project Manager at the city just as the pandemic was beginning. Yeo willingly took on working with a software program that indexes and categorizes Safety Data Sheets. He was able to catalogue all potentially hazardous chemicals in use throughout various city functions. This updatable database has the potential to save lives.

Tyler Barton received the **Employee Innovation Award**. Barton is the Media Producer and Engineer with the Communications Department. He went above and beyond throughout 2020 applying his skills and knowledge to suggest innovations that made the switch to virtual meetings possible. Zoom meetings for city council and all boards and commissions were required as a result of the inability to hold in-person meetings. Barton trained more than 125 staff and board members to conduct these meetings ensuring the continuity of city government and the opportunity for citizen participation.

The Communications Department was honored with the **Team Innovation Award**. The small Communications team adapted quickly to the pandemic and offered several major innovative programs. Weekends on Main Street was held over 21 weekends from June to October. This program allowed restaurants to recapture some of the space they lost due to public health orders. Using city and COVID funds as well as grants obtained totaling more than \$130,000, Weekends on Main Street was by all accounts a huge success and many restaurants and retailers stated they would not have survived without it. Frequent communication with citizens was more important than ever due to the rapidly changing environment and uncertainty caused by the pandemic. The *Littleton Report* print edition comes out six times a year, but it was clear there was a strong need to communicate more often. The *Littleton Report Online* was created and has been delivered weekly to more than 3,300 subscribers since May 1.

## **South Platte Renew Recognized**

South Platte Renew (SPR) was featured on the cover of the October issue of *Water Environment and Technology* magazine, a national wastewater publication, honoring the staff's work on the recent biogas project.

This project was completed in October 2019, and marks the first pipeline injection project in Colorado. Over 95 percent of SPR's generated biogas is recaptured and injected into the natural gas pipeline owned by Xcel Energy. This reuse method offsets the equivalent of 2,000 gallons of gasoline per day, over 13.5 million passenger vehicle miles per year, and reduces fossil-fuel-based carbon dioxide emissions by more than 5,000 metric tons per year. Beyond its environmental and community benefits, this pipeline injection system is anticipated to collect a significant return on investment.

# **Littleton City Council**



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# Upcoming Construction at Little's Creek

After many years of saving funds collaboratively between the city and Mile High Flood District, the roadway culvert on Little's Creek at the Gallup Street and Peakview Avenue intersection is due to be replaced and upsized in the spring of 2021. This project has been planned and designed over a number of years. The project will replace the small existing culverts with three box culverts and improve drainage pipes to reduce frequency of roadway and adjacent property flooding. All other roadways crossing Little's Creek have already had culverts upgraded to address this same flooding issue.

The project includes relocation of a number of water mains and other utilities, which dictates the construction schedule. This project is slated to begin in March to ensure that the water lines will be operational in May. To construct this project as economically as possible, the intersection will be closed to through traffic for approximately three months, with a signed detour for vehicles and pedestrians from February 15 until the end of May. Through traffic will be detoured around the work area at major streets including Elati Street, Ridge Road, Windermere Street, and Caley Avenue. Access to residences near the construction site will be maintained.

For questions about the project, contact project manager Carolyn Roan at 303-795-3836 or croan@littletongov.org.

# Improvements Along Platte Canyon Road

The City of Littleton is working with a consultant team, led by Apex Design, to develop safety and capacity improvements at the intersections of Platte Canyon Road and Bowles Avenue, as well as Platte Canyon Road and Mineral Avenue. This project is utilizing a federally-funded grant distributed through the Colorado Department of Transportation.

The project team is developing concept designs primarily focused on providing safer connections at these two intersections for pedestrians and bicyclists to access the Columbine Trail that runs parallel and along the west side of Platte Canyon Road, and the Mineral Trail along the north side of Mineral Avenue. The project also focuses on improving vehicle safety with the addition of exclusive and channelized turn lanes, signal equipment upgrades, and enhanced controls and monitoring at the intersections. While the funding will not accommodate a complete rebuild of both intersections, the city will be pursuing future studies and supplementary funding grants for additional improvements, as available.

The design is scheduled to be completed in 2021, with construction beginning in 2022. The city will create a project webpage and intends to reach out through virtual means to the surrounding neighborhoods and businesses in the upcoming months to learn about any issues, ideas, or concerns as well as gain feedback on initial design concepts.

# Improved Bike Lanes on Windermere Street



Those traveling on Windermere Street north of Littleton Boulevard will notice some recent striping changes. The City of Littleton recently restriped the street to remove some left turn pockets, add on-street parking, and create safer bike lanes. Functionally, the street operates as before, but the new striping more clearly defines who has the right-of-way. If some of the new striping is a little confusing, follow these simple tips:

## 1 YIELD TO CYCLIST

In almost all circumstance where cyclists are obeying the law, drivers are legally obligated to yield to cyclists. This is especially important when drivers are turning. On Windermere, bike lanes no longer stop at unsignalized intersections, but continue the path with skip striping. This new striping reminds drivers to look for (and yield to) cyclists when turning. This also warns cyclists that vehicles may be crossing the bike lane.

## 2. SHARE RIGHT TURN LANES

Where bike lanes end in the approach to intersections, cyclists are allowed to use the left half of the right turn lane to proceed through an intersection. Drivers using right turn lanes should yield to cyclists before entering the lane and should share the right turn lane with bicycles. Though cyclists going straight through an intersection should stay in the left half of the right turn lane, drivers are allowed to utilize the whole lane after yielding to cyclists.



## 3. MAKE EYE CONTACT

Some drivers and cyclists using the street for the first time may be unfamiliar with how to navigate the striping. In these situations, eye contact between drivers and cyclists is an incredibly effective tool for preventing collisions. Regardless of who has the right-of-way, cyclists are the more vulnerable user, and collisions between cyclists and cars often result in serious injuries for the cyclist. Make eye contact, drive the speed limit, and avoid distractions so that everyone who uses Windermere Street can return home safe.

## Xcel Energy to Bring Low-cost, Carbon-free Electricity to Littleton

Xcel Energy expects to begin construction this summer on a transmission line rebuild that goes through a small portion of Littleton, part of its commitment to deliver low-cost, clean, reliable energy while reducing carbon emissions 80 percent by 2030 from the electricity it provides customers.

The Greenwood to Denver Terminal Transmission Project will upgrade 15.4 miles of existing high-voltage transmission lines between Greenwood Substation near Orchard Road and South Quebec Street, and Denver Terminal Substation near Mile High Stadium. The work is needed to carry electricity from renewable sources in rural Colorado to customers in metro Denver.

The Greenwood to Denver Terminal Transmission Project will deliver more than 1,100 megawatts of wind energy from the Eastern Plains, and more than 700 megawatts of solar energy and 275 megawatts of battery storage projects in Southern Colorado. These investments were approved by the Colorado Public Utilities Commission as part of the 2018 Colorado Energy Plan. The project will cross six municipalities – Centennial, Greenwood Village, Littleton, Englewood, Sheridan and Denver. In planning the project, Xcel Energy met with local governments, South Suburban Parks and Recreation District, Littleton Public Schools, and landowners. It held a virtual open house January 28. In Segment 1, located in predominantly residential and park

CHANGE TERMINAL

SOUTH

settings in the cities of Centennial, Greenwood Village, Littleton and Englewood, Xcel Energy will replace existing steel lattice towers with single-pole structures. Within park and residential areas in Littleton, five structures will be replaced.

To learn more about the Greenwood to Denver transmission project, visit GreenwoodToDenverTerminal.com.

## **Littleton Finance Department Honored**

The City of Littleton's finance team was honored in the ResourceX Annual Report for its work in Priority Based Budgeting (PBB). Littleton was named the winner of the Resource Allocation and Maximization award for the staff's work during 2020 and their mastery of the PBB system.

"I share this honor with the entire team and want to take this opportunity to remind them how important their work is to the City of Littleton," said Finance Director Tiffany Hooten.

PBB has been used in the Littleton budget process in increasing degrees each year and has become a vital resource for Littleton City Council decision-making. PBB is an integral part of the city's leadership framework and will continue to be a key tool in the future. Visit resourcex.net/priority-based-budgeting for more information on PBB.





TREE SPECIES/ BOTANICAL NAME	SIZE/ PRICE	NOTES	MATURE HEIGHT	MATURE SPREAD	FALL COLOR	
LARGE SHADE TREES						
Legacy Sugar Maple Acer saccharum 'Legacy'	%-1" cal. bare root/ <b>\$40</b>	hardy, great fall color	40-50'	30-40'	red/ orange/ yellow	
Glenleven Linden Tilia cordata 'Glenleven'	¾-1" cal. bare root/ <b>\$40</b>	fragrant June flowers	40-45'	30-35'	yellow	
<b>Western Catalpa</b> Catalpa speciosa	%-1" cal. #7 cont./ <b>\$60</b>	white flowers, long pods, xeric	50-60'	30-40'	yellow/ brown	
<b>Turkish Filbert</b> Corylus colurna	%-1" cal. #7 cont./ <b>\$60</b>	edible ½" nuts in fall, xeric	35-45'	20-30'	yellow	
<b>Hackberry</b> Celtis occidentalis	%-1" cal. #7 cont./ <b>\$60</b>	corky bark, adaptable	50-60'	40-50'	yellow	
Kentucky Coffeetree Gymnocladus dioicus	%-1" cal. #7 cont./ <b>\$60</b>	white flowers, seedpods, xeric	40-60'	30-50'	yellow/ brown	
<b>Bur Oak</b> Quercus macrocarpa	%-1" cal. #7 cont./ <b>\$60</b>	long lived, rugged, xeric	50-70'	40-50'	yellow/ brown	
<b>Chinkapin Oak</b> Quercus muehlenbergii	%-1" cal. #7 cont./ <b>\$60</b>	shiny dark green leaves	40-50'	40-50'	red/ yellow/ brown	
<b>Shumard Oak</b> Quercus shumardii	¾-1" cal. #7 cont./ <b>\$60</b>	more tolerant of high pH soils	40-60'	40-50'	red/ orange	
Exclamation London Planetree Platanus acerifolia 'Morton Circle'	%-1" cal. #7 cont./ <b>\$60</b>	mottled bark	55-65'	40-50'	yellow/ brown	
SMALL ORNAMENTAL TREES						
Hot Wings Tatarian Maple Acer tataricum 'GarAnn'	%-1" cal. bare root/ <b>\$40</b>	red samaras in summer, xeric	20-25'	15-20'	yellow/ red/ orange	
Spring Snow Crabapple Malus 'Spring Snow'	¾-1" cal. bare root/ <b>\$40</b>	white flowers in May, no fruit	20-25'	15-20'	yellow	
Hedge Maple Acer campestre	¾-1" cal. #7 cont./ <b>\$60</b>	oval shape, glossy leaves	20-30'	20-30'	yellow/ brown	
Sensation Boxelder Acer negundo 'Sensation'	¾-1" cal. #7 cont./ <b>\$60</b>	seedless male cultivar, tough	25-30'	20-25'	red/ orange	
Autumn Brilliance Serviceberry Amelanchier x grandi- flora	%-1" cal. #7 cont./ <b>\$60</b>	white flowers, black berries	15-25'	15-20'	yellow/ red/ orange	
Eastern Redbud Cercis canadensis	¾-1" cal. #7 cont./ <b>\$60</b>	early dark pink flowers	15-20'	15-20'	yellow	
American Yellowwood Cladrastus kentukea	%-1" cal. #7 cont./ <b>\$60</b>	fragrant white flowers in June	25-35'	25-35'	yellow	
Chanticleer Pear Pyrus calleryana 'Chanticleer'	¾-1" cal. #7 cont./ <b>\$60</b>	white flowers, glossy leaves	30-40'	15-20'	purple/ red	

# 2021 Tree Planting Program

The City of Littleton is celebrating Arbor Day by continuing its annual tree-planting program with 18 species of trees available for purchase. The goal is to increase the canopy area and diversity of the urban forest. On Saturday, April 17, city staff and volunteers will distribute 225 trees. Program participants will pay \$40 for bare root trees and \$60 for #7 container trees. These trees must be planted within the Littleton city limits.

All newly-planted trees require regular watering, applied in all seasons, for 3-4 years after planting. Most of the trees offered are considered low or low-moderate water-demand trees which require minimal supplemental watering once established. Trees requiring more water should be planted in areas with irrigation. Consider mature heights and widths when choosing species for specific planting locations.

Four types of trees will be provided in bare-root form. Bare-root trees are light and easy to handle but require immediate planting. Fourteen types of trees are provided in #7 air-pruned pots, a patented container about the size of a five-gallon bucket, usually weighing 20-30 pounds. All the trees will initially be five to ten feet in height, with initial trunk calipers and mature sizes as indicated on the order form. They may be planted in the public right-of-way or on private property in the city, with an initial limit of six trees per single-family residential property. School parent teacher organizations (PTOs) and homeowner's associations are encouraged to purchase larger quantities.

Participants must make arrangements to pick up and plant their own trees and are responsible for all maintenance, pruning and watering. The trees must be picked up on Saturday, April 17, between 8 a.m. and noon at the Belleview Service Center at 1800 West Belleview Avenue. Planting instructions will be provided. Volunteers will plant trees for those who are physically unable.

Interested citizens should fill out the application and return it with a check payable to the City of Littleton. The trees are available on a first-come, first-served basis with a March 19 deadline. After this deadline call to check on tree availability. Call 303-795-3766 for more information.

2021 LITTLETON TREE PROGRAM APPLICATION						
Name:		Home Phone: Email:				
Address:						
	1st Tree		2nd Tree			
First Choice						
Alternate Choice						
	3rd Tree		4th Tree			
First Choice						
Alternate Choice						
Fotal trees ordered:(Attach additional sheet if more than four ordered).  Finclose check payable to City of Littleton: \$40 per bare root tree \$60 per #7 container tree  Send application and check to: City of Littleton - Tree Program 2255 West Berry Avenue Littleton, CO 80120  Return by March 19, 2021						
After March 19 call 303-795-3766 to check on availability.)						
I can help pick up and deliver trees in my neighborhood on April 17  I can help plant trees for others						
☐ I am requesting help planting my tree(s)						
Comments/suggeste	d species for future progr	ams:				

Call 303-795-3766 with any questions.



### Bemis Library Welcomes New Director

City Manager Mark Relph named Nancy Trimm as the new director for Bemis Public Library. Trimm has been with the city for over three years as the Deputy Director at Bemis. She is a graduate of Emporia State University, Kansas State University and Colorado Mesa



University and has over 13 years experience working with libraries across Colorado.

"Bemis Library is a special place that values its relationships with the community," said Trimm. "I'm thrilled to be in the position to support our creative and talented staff as we help our community thrive and as we work to foster meaningful partnerships. While the pandemic continues to challenge us as an organization, our staff has demonstrated incredible ingenuity and we will take the lessons we've learned forward as we build a more resilient and innovative library."

#### For Love of the Arts

Do you love the arts? The Littleton Arts and Culture Commission encourages and supports the areas of visual arts, theatre, film, music, dance, history, and humanities.

The commission wants to hear from residents and visitors about their perceptions of the strengths and weaknesses of arts and cultural events in the community. Visit OpenLittleton.org to take a brief survey and provide feedback to the commission and staff on arts and culture programs prior to COVID-19.

# Colorado Abstracted: Five Artists Capture the Transcendental Experiences of Nature

Painters Pat Finley, Annamarie Mead, Lydia Riegle, Janet Rundquist, and Cyncie Winter join together to show work that celebrates what living in Colorado means to them and how it influences their creative processes.

The exhibit runs Friday, January 22 through Saturday, February 27, in the Fine Arts Gallery.

The genesis of their creativity is driven by the natural world, of blue skies, of the clarity and dryness of the air, by the magical light at this high altitude, the abundant sunshine, the mountain adventures, and of building community with hiking, skiing, and celebrating being outside, together.

These artists employ different materials and points of focus to go beyond the details of nature, to dive below the surface of things, to capture and express the emotional, sensory, and transcendental experiences in all the sights and sounds of this beautiful state.

To further enhance visitors' engagement with the exhibit, all five artists will participate in a live-streamed artist talk on Friday, February 5 at 4 p.m. Additionally, the artists will put together a family crafting program that will allow participants to use abstract expressionist methods while making a collage, exploring what resonates with them about living in Colorado. This will be a pre-recorded video posted to the museum's YouTube page on February 11, so participants can access it at a time that is convenient to them. Visit https://bit.ly/ColoradoAbstracted to learn more about these exhibit-related virtual programs and to access the virtual tour of the exhibit.

The Littleton Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The museum is closed on Sundays, Monday's and major holidays. Masks are required. Follow the Littleton Museum on Facebook and Instagram, or the Littleton Museum's webpage for updates.

# Bemis/LPS OneCard Partnership Off to a Successful Start

Bemis Public Library and Littleton Public Schools (LPS) began a fortuitous partnership in the spring of 2020 that has proven highly successful during a time of remote learning and building closures. The OneCard initiative provides all LPS students a Bemis Library card with their LPS student ID. The OneCard gives students access to ebooks and audiobooks, online research databases, and checkout of two physical items. More than 12,000 students and faculty have registered with OneCard since the partnership began. "The OneCard partnership has been incredibly valuable to the Littleton Public Schools community, especially right now with online learning due to COVID. Our students and educators are now able to seamlessly access wonderful online resources through Bemis Library - we are so lucky to have such great community partners," stated LPS District Librarian Jessica Hesselberg.

Since the partnership went live in August, research database usage has increased by 740 percent. The most heavily used research databases by LPS students are Funk & Wagnell's Encyclopedia, Academic Search Premier, Newswires, Primary Search, and Middle Search Plus. The library added access to two new databases, PebbleGo and PebbleGo Next. These curriculum-connected online platforms provide resources in science, history, health, and social studies. Additionally, the library worked with its digital content vendor, OverDrive, to connect LPS with the Sora app for public schools. This app enables access to age-appropriate ebooks and audiobooks through the library. "With the challenges wrought on our school system by the COVID-19 pandemic, we're grateful we were able to partner with LPS to better support the demands of remote learning and give students better access to world-class research articles and homework support," stated Library Director Nancy Trimm.

# Town Hall Arts Center Goes Virtual

Town Hall Arts Center (THAC) is presenting a series of staged concerts that can be streamed and viewed from anywhere. *Almost, Maine* by John Cariani will be available February 12 and 13. Ticket prices start at \$15 but can go up to \$55. All ticket prices have access to the same content and at least one ticket purchase per household is required to gain access. Help support THAC as it continues to produce quality entertainment by purchasing a higher priced ticket, purchasing a ticket for each person viewing rather than for the household, or by donating to THAC directly. THAC is also offering a free mini-concert series called *Behind the Mask*. Artists Preston Adams, Jacob Villarreal, Robert Micheal Sanders, Faith Siobhan Ford, and more, perform songs from various musical favorites. The concert series can be viewed at youtube.com/TownHallArtsCenter.

Visit townhallartscenter.org or call 303-794-2787 for more information.





#### **South Suburban Parks and Recreation District News**

#### South Suburban Sports Complex Opening in February

The new South Suburban Sports Complex, a 206,000 square-foot regional sports facility, will open in February. Located at 4810 East County Line Road, the state-of-the-art complex features two gymnasiums with pickleball courts, three sheets of ice, a restaurant and bar, party and meeting room rentals, a pro shop, and more.

Ice rentals are available for \$280 hourly (district rate) and \$290 hourly (non-district rate) by contacting Justin Cirillo at jcirillo@ssprd.org. All ice rentals are dependent on Tri-County Health mandates



For more details about the new complex and the latest information about a grand opening, go to ssprd.org/sports-complex or South Suburban's social media channels.

#### Experience the South Platte Express Nature Van

Experience the awesome power of the South Platte River from any location. The South Platte Express Nature Van provides the chance for young people to learn hands-on about erosion, flooding, animal habitats, river dynamics, and engineering as well as how water can change land.

With the South Platte Express Nature Van, a naturalist leads engaging demonstrations that can be targeted for various groups and ages. Bookings are available for in-school or outdoor programs, community events, birthday parties, workshops and classes, and special events of all kinds. For more information, go to ssprd.org/nature or call 303-730-1022.

#### Join the South Suburban Active Adult Facebook Group

The South Suburban Active Adult Facebook group is a great place to interact with others in the area from the safety of home. The group features trivia, local news, and even the occasional live video. The group recently viewed a live performance from the Ritz Tappers class. Request to join the South Suburban Active Adult Facebook group at facebook.com/groups/southsuburbanactiveadults.



# BEYOND BOOKS... WHAT'S HAPPENING AT BEMIS LIBRARY?

Bemis Public Library | 6014 S. Datura Street | Littleton, CO 80120 | 303-795-3961 | Web Catalog: bemis.marmot.org

**Curbside Pickup Service** 



Bemis Library is offering curbside pickup Monday-Saturday from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Place items on hold using the library's online web catalog. When notified holds are available, call the library at 303-795-3961 to schedule a curbside pickup. Those who require special accommodations getting library materials to their car can inform the library when arranging a curbside pickup. Computers also are available by appointment only. Call the library at 303-795-3961 to schedule a one-hour computer session. Bemis has numerous remote, digital and virtual services available. Visit bemis.marmot.org.

Stream Movies with Your Bemis Library Card Kanopy is the best on demand video streaming

service for quality, thoughtful entertainment. For those interested in independent, international, classic, or documentary



films, they can use their Bemis Library card to sign up for Kanopy. Find movies, documentaries, foreign films, classic cinema, independent films and educational videos that inspire, enrich and entertain.

#### **CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS**

Take & Make Kits For Children in Preschool-5<sup>th</sup> Grade



February Kit

Kids will love the February Take & Make Kit. Create beautiful tissue paper flowers at home. Beginning February 1, call the library to schedule a curbside pickup of the kit supplies and instructions. All that is needed at home are scissors and a ruler. One kit per child, while supplies last.

#### March Kit

The March Take & Grow Kit will get kids ready for spring. Beginning March 1, call the library to schedule a curbside pickup of the kit supplies and instructions. With this Take & Grow kit, kids



can start growing a plant from seed indoors, just add water. One kit per child, while supplies last.

#### Streaming Story Times—Weekday Mornings\*

Join Bemis Children's Librarians from the safety of home for these favorite story times: Baby & Toddler Story Box, Preschool Story Times, and Family Story Times for All Ages. Access the Zoom links by clicking



on Children's Videos from the Children's Room page at bemis.marmot.org.

## Learn Something New with PebbleGo and PebbleGo Next

Explore PebbleGo for K-3rd grade students and PebbleGo Next for 3rd-5th grade students. These online, interactive resources are fun and easy to use. Children learn about topics such as animals, science, health, social studies and states. Find these resources on the Research and Learn tab at bemis.marmot.org. In Research Databases A-Z,

In Research Databases A-Z, click on P to find PebbleGo and PebbleGo Next.

#### **TEEN PROGRAMS**

Teen Talk Tuesday—Every Tuesday, 4–5:30 p.m.\* Hang out in the weekly Zoom meetings to get updates on what's going on at the library, play games and stay connected.

- Dungeons & Dragons:
   February 2 and 16, and March 2, 16 and 31
- Jack Box/Digital Board Games:
   February 9 and 23, and March 11 and 25

Among Us-4-5:30 p.m.

February 11 and 25, and March 11 and 25\*

Try to finish tasks and find out the imposters among us. Participants will need access to a computer or mobile device along with the downloaded game Among Us.

#### **GENERAL** PROGRAMS

**Senior Social Club** 

Thursdays in February and March, 9:30-11:30 a.m.\* Stay connected with Thursday conference call chats. Join the call from a computer, smartphone, regular cell phone or landline.

Health by Chocolate—February 4, 2–3:30 p.m.\* Chocolate can be good for you—but it matters which chocolate you choose. Learn about the health benefits and how to pick the best chocolate for your taste buds and your health.

Board Games @ Home, 5:30-8 p.m. February 4 and 18, and March 4 and 18\* Play virtual board games together online at this family-friendly event. Open to all ages.

Natural Dyeing—February 18, 2–3:30 p.m.\*
Learn about the natural dyeing process with demonstrations led by Jess Webb. Materials demonstrated in the workshop need to be purchased separately but are not required to participate in the class. Learn about indigo, Shibori, wildcrafting and the natural dye process.

Malcolm X with Active Minds—February 22, 2 p.m.\*

Hear a review of the life and legacy of this civil rights leader. To his admirers, Malcolm X was a courageous advocate for the rights of blacks. His detractors, however, accused him of preaching racism and violence. Learn how his efforts impacted history and how his ideas continue to influence society today.



### **VIRTUAL BOOK CLUBS**

Find links to the books and discussion sessions for any virtual book club in the Virtual Events Calendar at bemis.marmot.org.

- Virtual Senior Book Group
   February 3, 1 p.m.\*

  The Posia Project by Graeme Senior Brown Brown Brown Senior Brown Bro
  - The Rosie Project by Graeme Simsion March 3, 1 p.m.\*
- Washington Black by Esi EdugyanVirtual Fiction Book Club
- February 5, 1 p.m.\*

  The One-in-a-Million Boy by Monica Wood

  March 5, 1 p.m.\*
- In West Mills by De'Shawn Charles Winslow
- Virtual Nonfiction Book Club
- February 17, 1 p.m.\*

  Talking to Strangers by Malcolm Gladwell

  March 17, 1 p.m.\*

How the Irish Saved Civilization by Thomas Cahill

# Virtual Travel Training 101 February 23, 2 p.m.\*

RTD offers a cost-effective way to get around the metro area but navigating the RTD system takes some skill. Join Denver Regional Mobility and Access Council for this introduction to using RTD. From finding bus stops and stations to planning the most effective route, learn skills to effectively use RTD.



# Virtual Art Workshop with the Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art—March 4, 2 p.m.\*

Join BMoCA Educator Melinda Laz for a video presentation and interactive online workshop discussing BMoCA's new exhibition, *From This Day Forward*. Afterward, create a piece of art inspired by the show.

Hong Kong with Active Minds—March 15, 2 p.m.\* Recently, Hong Kong has erupted into violent conflict between the Chinese government and protesters objecting to increased government controls. Hear the story of Hong Kong, past, present, and future.

#### Virtual Travel Training 102 March 23, 2 p.m.\*

In this second training from Denver Regional Mobility and Access Council, learn master tricks to maximize the RTD experience such as using the RTD app to plan routes, buy tickets, find discounts and more.



# Poetry Workshop with Think 360 Arts March 25, 2 p.m.\*

Poet and storyteller SETH emphasizes the fun and liberating feeling to be had by playing creatively with language. At this workshop, the first of three, learn how to enjoy putting pencil to paper.

#### The Early Days of Radio—March 30, 2 p.m.\*

Learn about the long, strange history of radio. From the early days of radio plays and pure entertainment, to its adoption as a news source, radio has reflected the changing landscape of the American mindset throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

\*To register, participate, or join any of these programs go to the Virtual Events Calendar from the Bemis home page at bemis.marmot.org.





# COMMUNITY BUSINESS

**SPOTLIGHT** 

# Come in We're OPEN



## **Shirt Off My Back**

After 50 years of providing resort apparel in mountain towns and tourist destinations across the country, this family-owned and Colorado-based business, has opened its newest store in beautiful Downtown Littleton. Located at 2379 West Main Street, Shirt Off My Back offers an amazing selection of Colorado-inspired apparel, hats, and clothing gifts. As a nod to its Littleton roots, the new store also offers a line of tee-shirts centered on local legend Alfred Packer.

Owner Pat Somers said, "Due to the ongoing pandemic we had to close our popular Outlet Store which was also our warehouse and distribution center. This new location gives us the opportunity to re-open to our local community and customers with a more tailored product selection and easier accessibility."

Outlet Store manager Sammi Somers is now operating the new Littleton retail location and is looking forward to helping her loyal outlet customers and new shoppers alike!

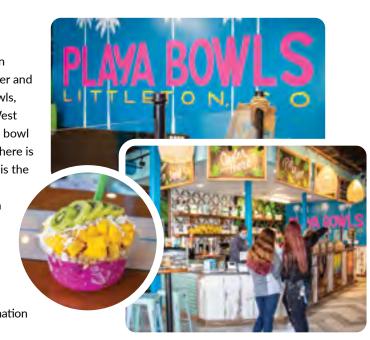
For more information visit shirtoffmybacklittleton.com or call 303-795-7432.



## **Playa Bowls**

There is a new healthy food option in Downtown Littleton. Playa Bowls opened its doors in December and offers an array of delicious smoothies, coconut bowls, pitaya and other combinations. Located at 2490 West Main Street, the New Jersey-based super fruit açai bowl shop is bright and inviting. With over 50 options, there is something for everyone. The Playa Bowls concept is the vision of founders Robert Giuliani and Abby Taylor who decided to recreate their favorite recipes with their own twist. This new Littleton location is the first in Colorado, but it is Playa Bowls' 103rd store in the U.S. and Puerto Rico.

The shop is open every day from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and offers take out and delivery options through DoorDash, Postmates and Grubhub. For more information visit playabowls.com or call 303-353-2776.



## **Timbuk Toys**

Discover fun at the newest location of Timbuk Toys that recently opened in Littleton. This specialty toy retailer offers customers the joy

of play, imagination, and discovery. Located at 7301 South Santa Fe Drive in the Aspen Grove Shopping Center, the store offers everything from baby toys, brain teasers, costumes, educational toys and more.

Timbuk Toys was started in 1993 as a tiny store in one of Denver's old, historic neighborhoods. This new Littleton location is the fourth store where families can enjoy the friendly atmosphere and sense of community

that Timbuk Toys is known for. The staff at Timbuk Toys is expertly trained, providing ideas and a toy knowledge base to assist in finding the perfect gift. Enjoy fun gift-wrapping, expert shopping assistance, and special services while discovering all that is play. For more information visit timbuktoys.com or call 303-346-3030.



## **Taspen's Organics**

Taspen's Organics is a family-owned Colorado company with a line of over 200 herbal remedies, including organic tinctures, teas, body care, facial care, aromatherapy, bath products, and more. This company specializes in creating the highest quality hemp cannabidiol (CBD) internals and topicals under its Dragonfly Botanicals label. Sourcing the highest quality organic ingredients and creating small-batch herbal remedies has been the intention and purpose of their craft since the beginning in 2007.

Located at 7301 South Santa Fe Drive in the Aspen
Grove shopping center, this unique shop also sells calming art
created by local artists. The facial and body care line combines
plant-based retinol to brighten, tone, and smooth fine lines; naturally rejuvenating the skin. The body care line includes organic body
moisturizers, sun cream, skin balms and salves for compromised
skin. Taspen's also makes gentle soaps and moisturizing hand sanitizers with effective natural ingredients that don't compromise skin.

Visit aspengrovecenter.com/retailer/taspens-organics/ or call 303-501-7722 for more information.



